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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

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January 30, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY  
✓ THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE  
THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION  
THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY  
THE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE  
CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
ADMINISTRATOR, GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION  
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY  
MANAGER, NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

SUBJECT: National Policy on Telecommunications and  
Automated Information Systems Security (U)

Enclosed for your review is a proposed draft NSDD to replace the current PD/NSC-24, Telecommunications Protection Policy, November 16, 1977. (C)

The proposed NSDD accommodates a number of important goals:

- It continues efforts and programs begun under PD-24, including PD-24's focus on protection of systems handling both classified and other sensitive information and sensitive non-government information. (C)
- It provides a broad-based organizational framework for developing and overseeing national policy in this area on behalf of the National Security Council and the President. (U)
- The structure proposed in this draft seeks to assure full participation and cooperation among the various existing centers of technical expertise throughout the Executive Branch, to promote a coherent and coordinated defense against the hostile intelligence threat, and to foster an appropriate partnership between government and the private sector in attaining these goals. It specifically recognizes the special requirement for protection of intelligence sources and methods. (C)

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- The new structure is intended to replace both the PD-24 Interagency Group for Telecommunications Protection (IG/TP) and the National COMSEC Committee (NCSC). (C)

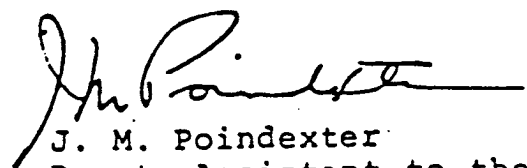
- It establishes a mechanism for evaluating the overall effectiveness of programs and resources and for establishing national priorities and effective levels of investment. (C)

- It consolidates executive agent responsibilities and assigns specific implementation authorities so as to assure effective and efficient administration of policy. (U)

- It explicitly combines telecommunications security and automated information systems security under a single national policy umbrella. This combination represents a significant enhancement of the PD-24 policy structure and is predicated on the Nation's need to assure equivalent and compatible security policies, standards, and postures in the two areas as their underlying technologies converge. (C)

The draft NSDD recognizes that while we have considerable experience in telecommunications security, we are only beginning to understand all aspects of automated information systems security. Also, there are substantial differences in the level of maturity of the various security technologies. Since continuing advances in technology can be expected to influence the implementation and future direction of policy in this critical area, the NSDD is framed to accommodate the possibility of changes, in either focus or structure, as needs dictate. Therefore, the NSDD establishes a forward-looking policy development and implementation structure which is sufficiently broad to adapt to future developments in automated information systems security. For example, it is expected that policy in this area will be strongly guided by studies currently underway, such as the intelligence community's review of computer security being conducted by the Davis panel. It is intended that the machinery established by this NSDD would initially focus on those automated systems which are connected to telecommunications transmission systems. (C)

A working group meeting to discuss the enclosed draft is scheduled for Friday, February 17, 1984, at 1400. Please designate a representative to attend this session and act as your point of contact for ensuing coordination actions. The names of working group representatives should be provided to Mr. Kenneth E. deGraffenreid (395-3334) of the NSC Staff. (U)



J. M. Poindexter  
Deputy Assistant to the President  
for National Security Affairs

Attachment  
Draft National Security Decision Directive